

István JOÓ

István JOÓ was born on the 30th of January 1983 in Nagykároly. He graduated in 2007 as agribusiness engineer specialized in finance-accounting and trade-marketing from the University of Debrecen. He worked for the European Parliament as an advisor from 2008 to 2011, and was dealing mostly with environmental and EU budgetary issues.

Since 2011 he has been working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs first as chief advisor of Anita ORBÁN, ambassador-at-large for energy security. In this capacity, he was primarily covering issues related to the energy priority area of the EU Danube Region Strategy, a cooperation platform of the 14 countries in the Danube-basin. Hungary, as the coordinator country of the energy priority area has achieved significant results thus proving the real added value of the macro-regional approach. With his active participation, several regional policy analyses have been developed such as the Danube Region Gas Market Model, Gas Storage Analysis, the Danube Region Biomass and Geothermal Concepts. Results of these initiatives were channelled into the Brussels' decision making processes.

Capitalizing on his hands-on experience and in order to gain a better insight into the energy sector, he attended the graduate school of the Corvinus University Budapest, from where he got his second degree as energy specialist in 2013.

Following the formation of the current government, on the 25th June 2014 the minister for foreign affairs and trade has nominated him as ministerial commissioner responsible for the overall national coordination of the EU Danube Region Strategy. He chairs an inter-ministerial working group with the participation of several ministries and background institutions ensuring Hungary's active participation in the macro-regional strategy. Under his leadership, the two water-related priority areas coordinated by Hungary implemented several regional initiatives such as the Danube Region Operative Flood Management and Cooperation Programme, and a training program to Bosnian flood management experts.

For his initiative, Hungary will organize the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Danube Strategy in 2017. In January 2016, he was tasked by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the overall coordination of the Budapest Water Summit 2016